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ANOTHER CRACK IN THE COSMIC EGG

by Michael Peter Langevin

Well-known author, lecturer and philosopher Joseph Chilton Pearce, PhD has had over fourteen books published, many best sellers, and he has lectured in most States and in numerous countries. His book, *The Crack in the Cosmic Egg,* is a classic work that shaped the thought of a generation with its powerful insights into the true nature of mind and reality. He also has other popular books, including, *Magical Child* (1977) and *The Bond of Power: Meditation and Wholeness* (1981).

At eighty-eight years old, Joe Pearce is still quite active and recently spoke at a Heartline program at The Monroe Institute in Faber, Virginia. In his talk he revealed that he recently had an extraordinary new life experience. In this experience his body was still alive in normal reality and relatively functioning, but he was not communicating. Joe stated, “For two weeks, my mind and spirit where traveling in the vastness of greater existence.”

Over the years, Joe has experienced and written about a wide variety of his own abstract experiences. However, his recent soul journey was almost beyond his ability to put into words. Joe says of this recent experience, “It was the purest Love. It was where humanity is supposed to reside and almost the exact opposite of the world most of humanity exists in today.” He went on to state that his mind and spirit were transported to the edges of the entire cosmos, which overflowed with the purest love beyond what he could adequately describe or fully even hold in his imagination.

Joe described meeting a huge, cosmic archetypal woman dressed in white whom he was told was his mother. This confused him because she did not look like his mother. She proceeded to pick him up and hold him lovingly as a child and then informed him they were returning to her hometown, Manassas, Virginia, where Joe holds some of his fondest memories of going with her in his childhood. She then took him along a cosmic river, which Joe could only describe as "pure, sparkly love, yet it somehow also consisted of countless galaxies."

Speaking to the Heartline program participants, Joe said he had not wanted to return to his normal existence from the vastness of love where his mind and spirit had gone. He remarked that he felt a great sadness seeing how wrong and unloving all of Earth’s institutions are today. Joe stated that politics, religion, education, business and most of what affects humans' day-to-day lives presently are just wrong and it is as if humans had been kidnapped and kept from the existence they were meant to live. He said upon returning, he knew any words he used to describe his experience would be inadequate and fall short of capturing what he had seen, felt,

shared and experienced. What happened was in harmony with his life time of writing and lecturing, yet Joe stated that he had never had such a transcendent experience.

In his first bestselling book, *The Crack in the Cosmic Egg,* released in 1971, Joe compared the philosophies of Carlos Castaneda's Don Juan and Jesus to show how humanity had been trained to see reality in a certain, very limited way. He goes on to show how we have the ability and a personal responsibility to break through this early limiting training to explore what reality is, beyond our faulty construct of shared, agreed-upon societal limitations.

In his writing, Joe tries to "strip away the hope that binds us to culture." Culture and ego-consciousness operate on this hope. There is always the hope and ambition that business success, a new car, new home, or better relations with other people will quench forever our vague anxieties.

The truth is that nothing is sufficient. Nothing *within* culture and ego-consciousness can eradicate anxiety and the fear of death. These apprehensions are inherent in the very nature of the ego and of culture. Pearce says, "That while culture and ego-consciousness are necessary, they form only half of our full being. In our other mode of consciousness—the primary process—is found the solution to the anxiety of existence."

Joe contends that we live in a second-hand reality. What we believe about the world, we project onto the world. Our world is in our own heads much more than it is "out there." What is actually "out there" is something which we are seldom in contact with except in what are termed altered states of consciousness. What we believe, has a formative effect on our perceived reality.

He has written of how the Balinese fire walker can enter a state of mind in which he believes it is possible not to be burned when walking across hot coals—thus, due to his belief, he is successful in not being burned when walking across fire. This is usually impossible when one is in the world-view that maintains that fire burns. The ability to enter into another belief about the nature of the world Joe calls "reversibility thinking." Many occultists would say reversibility thinking is what has been called Magic for thousands of years. It is the ability to change reality by entering an alternate state of belief and assurance.

In *The Biology of Transcendence* Joe examined "...the current biological understanding of our neural organization to address how we can go beyond the limitations and constraints of our current capacities of body and mind--how we can transcend. Recent research in the neurosciences and neurocardiology identifies the four neural centers of our brain and indicates that a fifth such center is located in the heart. This research reveals that the evolutionary structure of our brain and its dynamic interactions with our heart are designed by nature to reach beyond our current evolutionary capacities. We are quite literally *made* to transcend."

Time and again in his books, Joe attempts to show how technology has eroded personal power and how insight and awareness can play a higher role in our lives. He blames cultural imprinting as the cause of humankind's cruel and violent behavior. He constantly refutes the Neo-Darwinist assumption that violence is inherent in humanity. Joe has stated "That we must ourselves harness the creative energies and apparently limitless potential of universal mind and not put off nurturing ourselves and our brethren until tomorrow."

Joe often writes that we must cultivate "...the dynamic of the heart-brain-mind relationship, and literally listen to our heart as a kind of brain itself that prioritizes love and intimate relationship above all else. And we need to be nurturing, and opening the heart to the future possibilities of love unconfined."

Joe came to be lecturing this class due to his lifelong friendship with the Monroe family. When *Journeys Out of the Body* came out in 1971, Joe contacted the author, Robert Monroe, for he felt the book was the best to ever describe the dimensions beyond the material world--aspects which Joe had written about in his own book. The two struck up a friendship which lasted the remainder of Robert Monroe's life.

When Mr. Monroe began offering classes in consciousness exploration in 1975, Joe partook of one of the early classes and has spoken since of the out of body experience he had there. Then later, Robert Monroe bought 800 acres in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia with the intention of setting up The Monroe Institute, his research and educational organization, to teach people how to access, explore and use expanded states of awareness as well as to set up a community. Joe was the first person to buy a parcel of land and build his home there, where he still lives today.

Joe and Mr.Monroe would go for walks and talk about their personal experiences and their views of reality. Now, almost twenty years after Robert Monroe's passing, The Monroe Institute is spearheaded by his step-daughter, Nancy McMoneagle. Year-round programs teach techniques in achieving expanded states of consciousness, to include the out of body state, which help participants to truly know that they are more than their physical body which, in turn, enhances their self-knowledge and expands their view of reality. Nancy considers Joe a personal friend, and is grateful (as are the participants!) that he gives presentations at some of the Institute's programs.

Joe stated to The Monroe Institute Heartline Program participants that he felt his experience represents what he has spoken and written about all his life, especially in his books *The Crack in the Cosmic Egg* and *Evolutions End*. He feels society is at a crossroads. That almost all of us have been limited by societies' views of reality, and we must change how we educate and raise our children. It's time to turn off the TVs and other electronics, and begin to live in a state of unconditional, unselfish love.